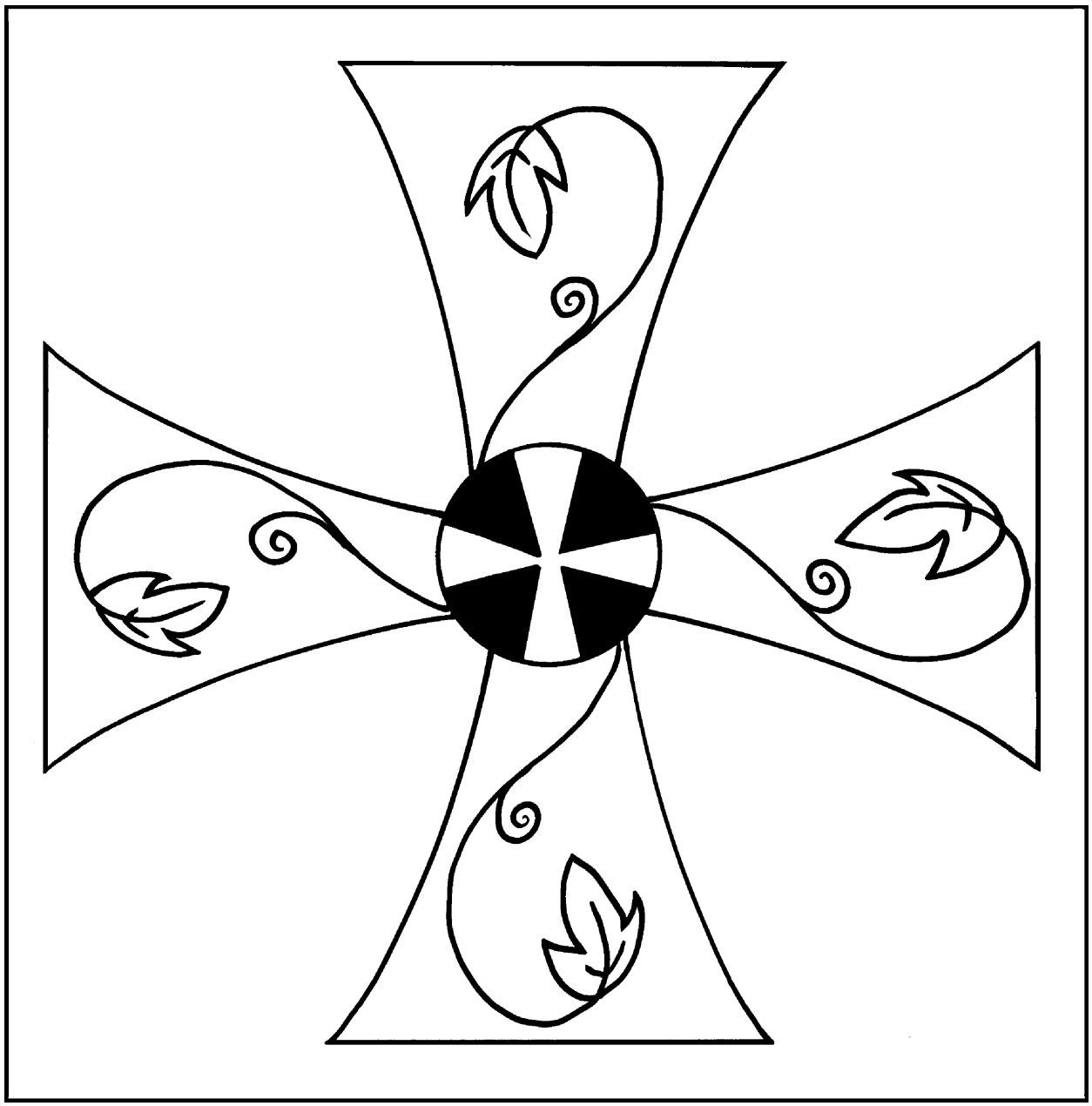


In Memory of
Vivian Ethel (Meyer) Phillips

A Celebration of Life and Witness to the Resurrection
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti, MI
September 4, 2025

Worship Key
P: Pastor
R: Reader
C: Congregation

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship.

INTRODUCTION

P: Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister Vivian, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

C: We glorify you.

P: Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

C: We praise you.

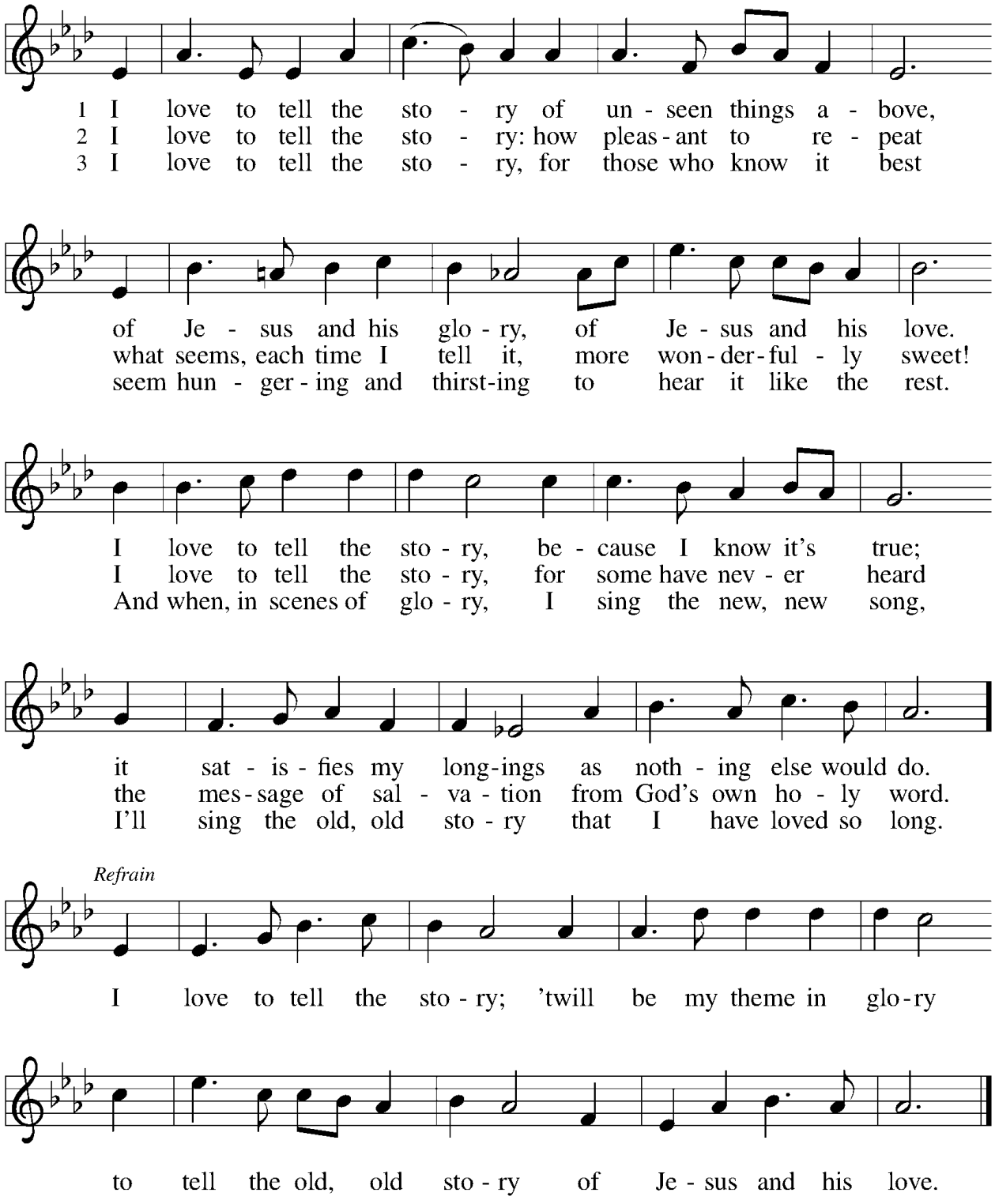
P: Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

C: We worship you.

P: To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

I Love to Tell the Story


1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best
of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.
I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,
it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.
Refrain
I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry
to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister Vivian. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

REMEMBRANCE

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

R: A reading from Ecclesiastes.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: [2]a
time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what
is planted; [3]a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time
to build up; [4]a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time
to dance; [5]a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a
time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; [6]a time to seek, and a
time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; [7]a time to tear, and a
time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; [8]a time to love, and a
time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

R: Word of God. Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

[1] I lift up my eyes to the hills—
    from where will my help come?
[2] My help comes from the LORD,
    who made heaven and earth.
[3] He will not let your foot be moved;
    he who keeps you will not slumber.
[4] He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
[5] The LORD is your keeper;
    the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
[6] The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.
[7] The LORD will keep you from all evil;
    he will keep your life.
[8] The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
    from this time on and forevermore.

GOSPEL: MARK 10:13-16

P: The holy gospel according to Mark chapter 10**.**

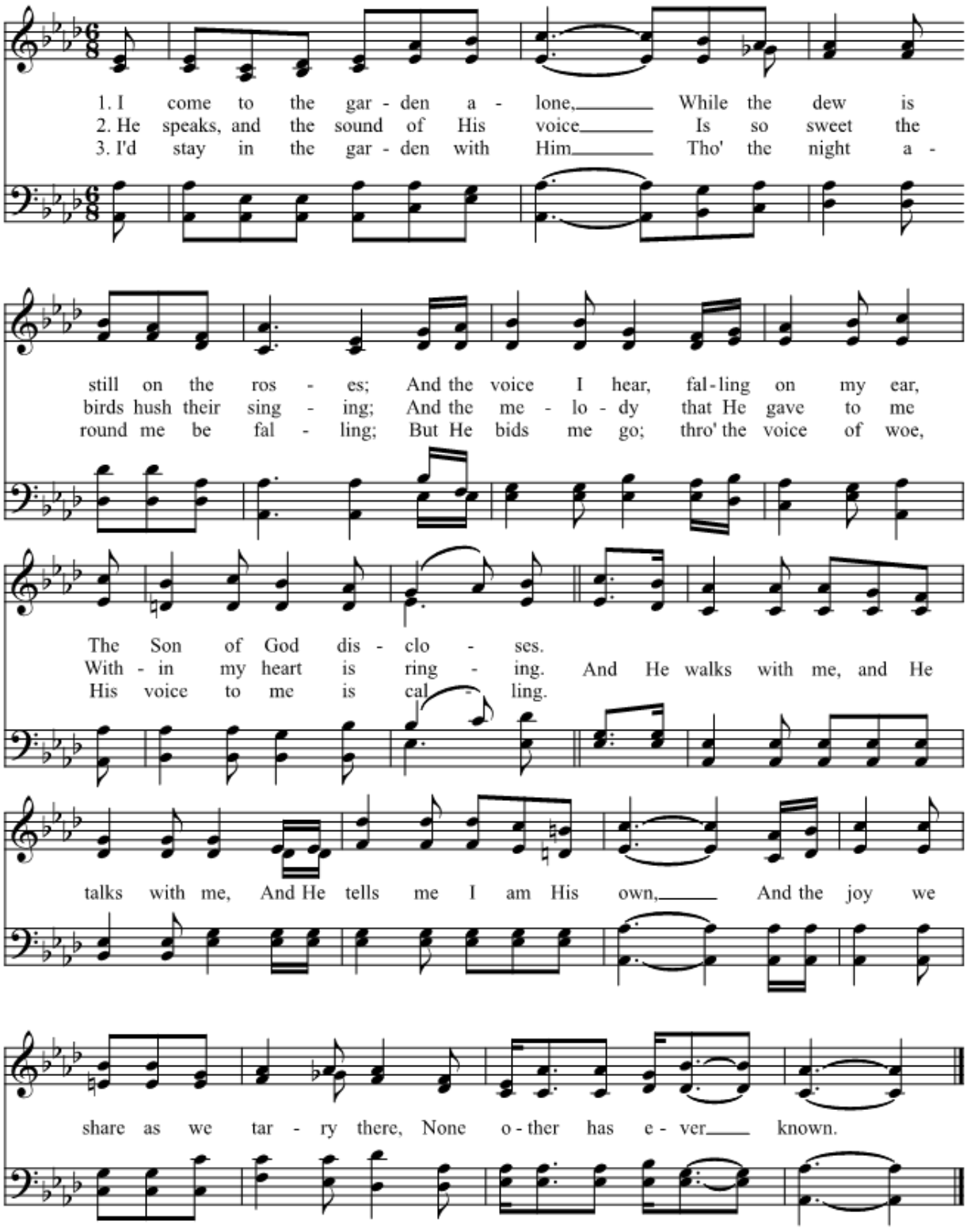
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

13 People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the
disciples spoke sternly to them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and
said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as
these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not
receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took
them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY **Rev. Joshua Rinas**

HYMN – *"In The Garden"*

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the dew is
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so sweet the
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Tho' the night a -
still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fal - ling on my ear,
birds hush their sing - ing; And the me - lo - dy that He gave to me
round me be fal - ling; But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
The Son of God dis - clo - ses.
With - in my heart is ring - ing. And He walks with me, and He
His voice to me is cal - ling.
talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, And the joy we
share as we tar - ry there, None o - ther has e - ver known.

Text: C. Austin Miles, 1868-1946
Tune: C. Austin Miles, 1868-1946

Irregular
GARDEN
www.hymnary.org/text/i_come_to_the_garden_alone

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APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Let us pray.
Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

COMMENDATION

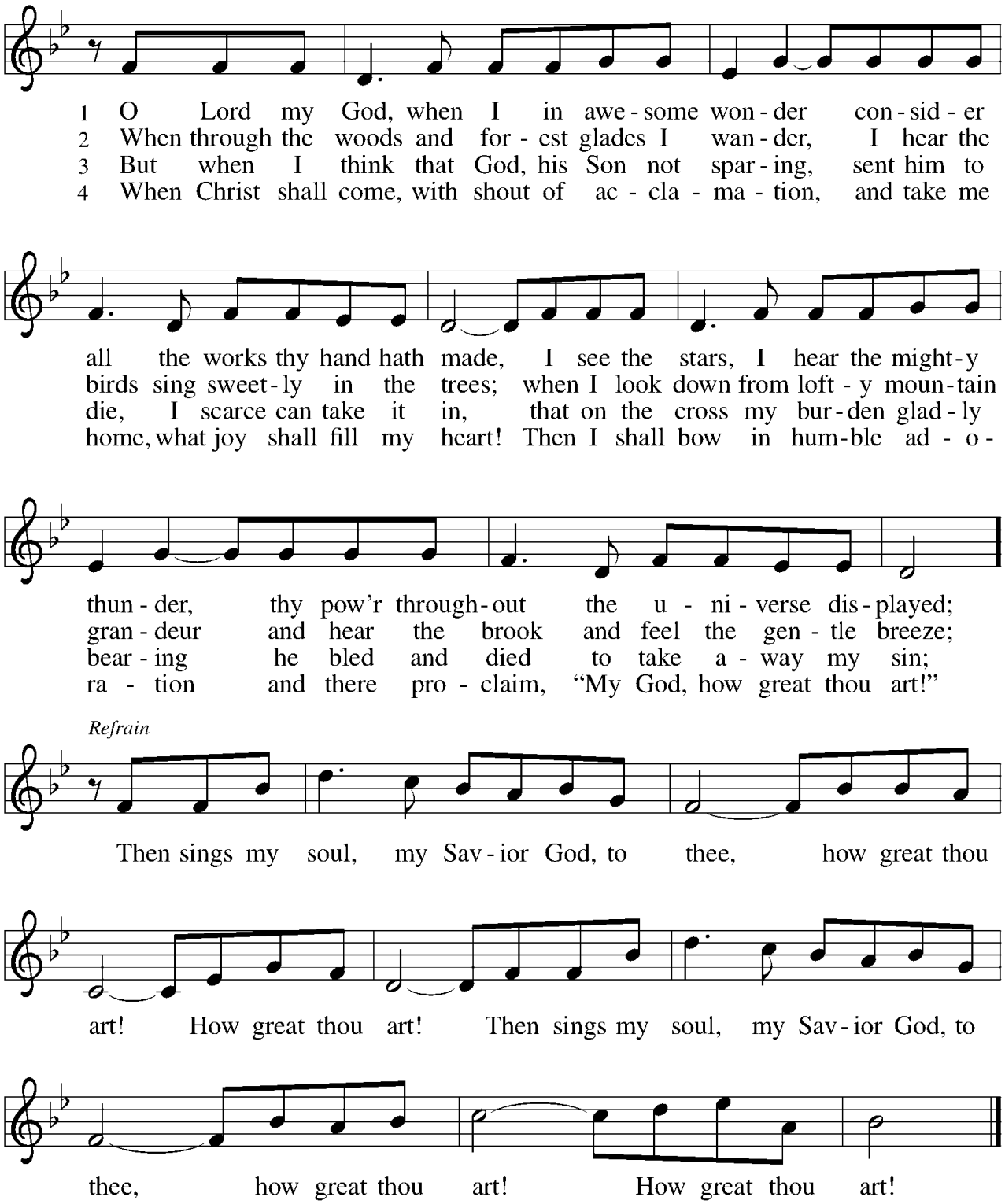
P: Let us commend Vivian to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer. Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Vivian. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

C: Amen.

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: in the name of Christ. Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 856

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me
all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -
thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"
Refrain
Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou
art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
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Vivian Ethel (Meyer) Phillips
March 5, 1935 – August 26, 2025

Vivian lived life to the absolute fullest, and loved everyone. She worked for AT&T for over 40 years. She was always doing something: gardening, taking care of her chickens and being involved in many activities. She clowned with the name Agapy and made countless animal balloons in parades and children's events. Vivian led 4-H for many years and used her talents to enrich the lives of those around her.

Vivian was always hard working and volunteered her time in many places, examples include: The Parade Company giving tours and attending many parades. She was a volunteer and member of the Women's Literary Club and Thrift shop for over 30 years. A member of the German Park for over 55 years and loved helping where she could. As an active member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church where she had her kids involved in choir and catechism. She reared four Eagle Scouts. She was also a square dancer and social dancer for many years. She was a member of the Ann Arbor Bicycling Touring Society and always helped with their various events such as "One Helluva Ride"; and biked across Michigan (PALM) annually for at least 35 years. She biked many places around North America and the world with the Wandering Wheels Christian group. Including bicycling across the USA twice.

Vivian is survived by her five children, Darlene, Bruce (Lynne), Steven (Gail), Richard (Marybeth), David, ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents William and Amanda (Roehm) Meyer, husband Jack, brothers Stanley Meyer and Ralph Meyer.

Funeral service will be celebrated on Thursday, September 4th at 11:00 a.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River St., Ypsilanti with Pastor Joshua Rinas officiating. Contributions in her memory may be made to Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Envelopes will be available at Nie (Formerly Janowiak) Funeral Home 320 N. Washington St. Ypsilanti, where the family will receive friends Wednesday, September 3rd from 3:30 to 8 p.m. and at the Church on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until time of service.

SERVING IN WORSHIP:

Interim Pastor.....Rev. Joshua Rinas
Organist.....David Meitzler

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